

Columbia University
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DEPARTMENT OF ZOÖLOGY

June 1, 1954

Dr. Joshua Lederberg
Department of Genetics
College of Agriculture
The University of Wisconsin
Madison 6, Wisconsin

Dear Josh,

Had Sol's letter and your response on my desk for the past week or so waiting an answer to the telegram I sent Sol requesting information about the Markert case. I am still totally ignorant of such simple facts as the accusation and the defense. Like you, I do not know Markert personally and as a consequence, until I am better informed I can do nothing but act as though Michigan were a perfectly responsible University. Perhaps you could tell me what the known facts are.

If we do all decide to have a go at the Symposium, will our stays at Ann Arbor overlap? We don't have a car and so will fly out, and from there to Berkeley where we meet the Bonners for a few weeks back packing in the Sierras. It's not very likely we would have a chance to visit Madison. I don't suppose there's much chance you and Esther will come to New York before you go to Michigan.

I had a letter recently from Elsa Gonzalez who was my assistant last year. She is now with Guzman-Barron and leaves for a job in Brazil in the fall (she is an Argentinian). She has started to work on a problem involving the irradiation of haploid and diploid yeast and wants to talk to you about it, I promised I would write you for she hoped to spend a few weeks at Madison. She is a good girl --- terribly enthusiastic, fairly intelligent, but, if I may be permitted a generalization, possessed of no more common sense than most South Americans. If your laboratory is crowded or your schedule tight, don't take her; if you can have her about, you might find her entertaining and, what is more important, you might, by stooping a bit, help the cause of science in South America. She will write you herself.

Dr. Lederberg

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My laboratory will be pretty inactive this summer. Kaplan spends a month in C.S.H. and will then drive West for six weeks. I hope he is able to pass through Madison so that you can meet him. Moewus (I have as yet no report to give) will teach in the Woods Hole Botany course. In October he goes to work with Buzzati at La Jolla for a month. Could you get him for a lecture at Madison on his way? He is an astonishing person and I believe him to be one of the better minds of our times (I've seen a couple of good ones). Phyllis spends ten weeks in Europe, as do two of my students, our librarian, and two Botany Professors; Hayashi leaves for Copenhagen in September, when Deyrup, Dunn, and Gregg return --- alas, I'm envious. Thanks, by the way, for recommending me for that Tokyo job -- I'll take it if they offer it to me.

I'll write you again shortly if I have anything further to say about the Michigan situation.

Best to Esther and you from Betty and me,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Francis".

Francis J. Ryan

FJR:k